

United States Marshals Service



FACT SHEET Judicial Security

Ensuring the safe conduct of judicial proceedings and protecting federal judges, jurors and other members of the federal judiciary are principal functions of the Marshals Service.

Court Security

Senior inspectors, deputy marshals and contracted court security officers (CSOs) provide security inside federal court facilities in each of the 94 federal judicial districts and the District of Columbia Superior Court. The Marshals Service protects more than 2,000 sitting judges plus other court officials at more than 400 court facilities throughout the nation.

Explicit threats against the judiciary, U.S. attorneys and other court officers are assessed to determine the level of danger. On average, about 600 threats/inappropriate communications against judicial officials are logged each year — some of which result in round-the-clock protective details.

Marshals Service court security personnel provide the latest in state-of-the-art protective techniques and equipment in all phases of court proceedings, threat situations and judicial conferences — thus ensuring quick and safe responses in emergency situations as well as unobtrusive surveillance and protection during routine operations.

The Marshals Service's Judicial Security Division counts the following as highlights from fiscal 2004:

- coordinated and provided 187 instances of personal

- protective services to U.S. Supreme Court justices;
- provided security services during 154 judicial conferences and 29 other significant gatherings of members of the federal judiciary;
- coordinated and provided personnel and additional security resources for 136 high-threat trials;
- reviewed and processed 674 threats/inappropriate communications;
- monitored and managed 39 protective details for federal judges and assistant U.S. attorneys as a result of inappropriate communications or potential threats;
- instructed a training course titled "Protective Services" for 200 Colombian law enforcement officers;
- provided training for 140 Marshals Service judicial security inspectors;
- provided orientation for 685 CSOs;
- provided training for 48 Marshals Service district threat investigators.

Judicial Security Systems

In fulfilling its primary responsibility of providing security services to the federal judiciary, the Judicial Security Systems (JSS) group deploys and coordinates the installation of complex electronic security systems to protect federal judges, courthouse staff members, visitors and physical court facilities. This includes perimeter security, access control, closed circuit television surveillance and alarm reporting systems. JSS designs low-profile weapons-screening stations used at the entrances of most court facilities. These

stations are designed so CSOs can identify and seize unauthorized weapons in a setting that provides protection for them while also blending aesthetically into lobby architecture. These stations include X-ray equipment with state-of-the-art detection software maintained by JSS.

JSS develops standards for the installation of ballistic-resistant armor protection for courtroom benches and for those judiciary-related activities located in facilities where no weapons screening is performed. JSS also designs CSO communication systems such as base and repeater stations to ensure comprehensive radio communications throughout local facilities.

Judicial Protective Services (Court Security Officer Program)

Judicial Protective Services (JPS) has primary responsibility for ensuring that the CSOs protect the judiciary and court family — as well as thousands of jurors, attorneys and visitors entering court facilities across the nation. JPS determines resource needs and it develops and enhances program operations and contract requirements for the CSOs. JPS also provides day-to-day operational guidance to U.S. marshals, senior inspectors and senior deputy marshals in each Marshals Service district office.

Currently, more than 4,500 CSOs with certified law enforcement experience are deployed at more than 400 court facilities in the United States and its territories. All CSOs are required to pass a comprehensive screening process to ensure that specific background, physical, medical and weapons qualifications standards are met. JPS screens more than 5,000 CSOs annually, ensuring that they are qualified, physically fit and capable of responding to potential security threats.

Judicial Security Contracts

The Judicial Security Contracts staff awards and administers all contracts for CSO services, CSO body armor and the nationwide installation and maintenance of electronic security equipment. These contracts provide for the protection of the federal judiciary and courthouse staff, Marshals Service operational areas, prisoner movement space and prisoner detention space.

Central Courthouse Management Group

The Central Courthouse Management Group (CCMG) serves as the center of expertise concerning prisoner movements and detention facilities. The group works with Marshals Service district personnel, GSA and the AOUSC when planning the construction of new federal courthouses and the renovations of existing courthouses.

CCMG staff members are responsible for the programming, planning, acquisition, budgeting, design, construction and electronic physical security of all Marshals Service office space, prisoner movement space, operations areas, prisoner detention space and any other physical areas associated with the security of Marshals Service space within U.S. courthouse facilities. The CCMG ensures the safety and evaluates the vulnerability of Marshals Service facilities as measured against established, objective physical security criteria. The CCMG also provides the physical security necessary to make safe and efficient prisoner movements. In addition, the CCMG administers the agency's Occupational Safety and Health Program, Rent Program, Body Armor Program and the Information and Classified Security Program.

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